

Knight had dug a well for the accomodation of the laborers employed by him and also for mining purposes. From this well, which was operated by a steam pump and had cost considerable money, Brother Knight permitted all who desired to take water free of charge. John R. Boyle and family, who hailed from Payson, were the first people who moved onto the present site of Knightsville. This was in July 1897, at the time the semi-centennial jubilee was held in Salt Lake City.



Jesse Knight

KNIGHTSVILLE

Elder Jesse Knight of Provo, Utah, after prospecting for many years in the mountains surrounding Tintic Valley, succeeded in finding paying ore in 1896 in one of his mining properties now known as the "Humbug" mine. While prospecting a voice of inspiration told him, so he declared that the side of the mountain where he was looking for precious metal, was intended for the "Mormons" and he was led by instinctive inspiration to hunt for precious metal at the very place where he subsequently found it. After commencing to develop the mines, he employed a number of the brethren to work his claims. Some of these brethren who were good members of the Church soon began to feel the necessity of holding meetings in their camps. Brother Knight, under the influence of inspiration, it is said, remarked on a certain occasion while conversing with some of his brethren on the "Uncle Sam" camp, that he would build a meeting house and school, which he did in 1897, at a time when only a few mining cabins had been erected. Previous to that, in the summer of 1897 Brother

A special meeting of the Saints, the first one ever held in the camp, was held in the new meetinghouse built by Brother Knight on October 3, 1897. It was attended by President Edward Partridge of the Utah Stake of Zion, and his counselors. On this occasion the Saints who were employed in and about the "Uncle Sam" and the "Humbug" mines, in the employ of Jesse Knight, were organized into a Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and named Knightsville in honor of Jesse Knight. Oscar Wilkins Jr. was appointed Superintendent of the Sunday School at same time. The meeting house was dedicated by Counselor David John, for both worship and educational purposes. This meeting house was a lumber structure, thirty-two by twenty-six ft. with a vestibule in front and an annex in the rear in which there were

smaller rooms for Priesthood meetings and other gatherings. The building of the house cost about \$800. When it was finished, Elder Knight presented it to the Branch as a special donation. The Branch, after being organized, paid for the inside furnishings including the organ.

According to the official statistical report dated December 21, 1897, the numerical strength of the Knightsville Branch was 120 souls, including one High Priest, one Seventy, fourteen Elders, two Teachers, twenty-three Deacons, forty-six lay members and thirty-three children under eight years of age.

A YMIA was organized in the Knightsville Branch November 14, 1897 with John McEwan as President. A Deacons Quorum was organized November 15, 1897.

Up to 1898 the people of Knightsville paid taxes to Utah County, but a committee appointed by the legislature, made investigations concerning the boundary line between the two counties, and after that the brethren paid taxes to Juab County.

At the end of 1899 there were 138 souls in the Branch. Most of these consisted of a floating population, about one half of whom had joined the Branch by recommendation or baptism.

The first missionary called was Lewis M. Nebeker, who went to the Southern States. Charles White also served in Southern States and both returned in 1901, after two years of service.

A Relief Society was organized May 28, 1899 and an Elder's Quorum also organized in that same year.

Most of the buildings in Knightsville were ordinary mining cabins though there were some very good-sized lumber houses. Some of the mines about Knightsville produced a high grade of ore, mostly lead ore loaded with silver. Also some pockets of gold were found. For smelting purposes the ore was generally shipped to Salt Lake Valley smelters. Some of the ore turned out as high as eighty percent lead. At the close of the century about 100 men were employed in the two mines - the "Uncle Sam" and the "Humbug". The



Town of Knightsville (Courtesy Tintic Historical Society)